

Wycombe win with 4—all by Bates

Sports Mail Special Report

IN spite of an early setback Wycombe Wanderers showed excellent form in an Isthmian League game against Dulwich Hamlet and a brilliant hat-trick within eight minutes by Bates put them in a commanding position after the visitors had taken the lead in the first eight minutes.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; D. Worley, Arkins; Thomas, Cook, Beck; Rockell, L. Worley, Bressington, Bates, Free.

Dulwich Hamlet: Nash; Kent, Hammond; Merritt, Munday, Dew; Field, Brown, Bond, Skipper, Vail.

Referee: D. Copp (Hemel Hempstead).

Wycombe were soon on the attack and after a determined run and accurate centre by Worley, Beck sent a shot which went just wide with Nash, the Hamlet's reserve goalkeeper, out of position.

Dulwich, third in the League table, were lucky to escape again when Bressington sliced his shot from a through pass. Eight minutes after the start, however, Field split the home defence with a fine run and centre and VAIL on the opposite wing dived full-length to reach the ball with his head and score a spectacular goal.

Dulwich continued to look dangerous in well-sustained attacks, but Wycombe claimed a fair share of the play, and Free, who had come in at the last minute for Hyde on the left wing, missed an excellent chance from a pass by the busy Rockell.

BATES' GOALS

It was no more than they deserved when Wycombe equalised after 22 minutes, BATES converting a pass by Worley after good work by Rockell.

Three minutes later BATES took a pass from Rockell and beat three defenders in great style before putting Wycombe ahead with a second.

Five minutes afterwards BATES completed his hat-trick with another brilliant

goal after a determined solo run.

A little later a shot by Free appeared to have crossed the goal line, but the referee waved aside claims for a goal.

A few seconds before half-time SKIPPER added a second for Dulwich.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 3, Dulwich Hamlet 2.

Wycombe's right half, Thomas, was carried off injured five minutes after the resumption, but was able to resume after touch-line attention.

The Wycombe goal came under heavy pressure for a spell but gradually the Wanderers regained the initiative with Bates again the architect of their most promising attacks.

BATES AGAIN

Exchanges swung swiftly from end to end and goalkeeper Nash saved Dulwich when he threw himself across the goal to stop a tremendous 30 yard drive by Bates.

Wycombe were again left with only ten men when Free went off injured. But although they had more of the play Dulwich were unable to press home their advantage.

With Free back Wycombe retaliated and in the 73rd minute BATES scored another sparkling goal from a pass by Bressington.

With Dulwich continuing to press home fierce attacks FIELD scored their third eight minutes from time from a pass by Brown.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAND. 4
DULWICH HAMLET 3

BATES HITS 3 IN 8 MINUTES

Wycombe W 4 Dulwich H 3

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' international inside left Paul Bates and Dulwich Hamlet's inside right Leslie Brown dominated this taut Isthmian League struggle at Wycombe.

Wycombe owed their win to the brilliance of Bates, whose artistry and marksmanship inspired the attack and brought him all four goals, including an eight-minute first-half hat-trick.

The tireless industry and scheming of Brown kept Hamlet equally in the picture throughout, and the result was in doubt until the last kick.

Bates, who has now taken over Wanderers' captaincy, led their recovery after the shock of an eighth-minute goal by left-winger Terry Vail, who put Hamlet ahead with a spectacular diving header from Field's centre.

Fourteen minutes later Bates equalised from a pass by Worley, and within eight minutes had completed a hat-trick, two of the goals coming from good solo runs.

Skipper kept the Hamlet in the running with a goal on the stroke of half-time.

Dulwich often had the Wycombe defence in trouble in the second half as the inside trio, Skipper, Bond and Brown, switched positions. Although Wycombe lacked their customary thrust on the wings Bates was a constant menace to the Dulwich defence and he got the fourth goal in the 73rd minute.

Brown's pass enabled Field to score a third for Dulwich eight minutes from the end but the Wycombe defence defied Hamlet's last-minute bid for a draw in a hectic finish.